

Sl. No.	Name of Proposal	Km.	Status
9.	Pilkhani-Kalsi	80	Announced in Budget 2013-14. Survey completed recently and as per survey report, the cost has been assessed as ₹ 1800 crore with rate of return of (-) 5.93%.
10.	Rail connectivity to Char Dham	660	Announced in Budget 2014-15.
11.	Rishikesh-Dehradun	20	Announced in Budget 2015-16.
12.	Nagina-Afjalgarh-Thakurdwara-Kashipur	67	Announced in Budget 2016-17.

(b) At present, there is no proposal for additional railway station at Dehradun. However, to ease the terminal capacity of Dehradun station presently constrained by 13 coaches length platform, the work of extension of platform to accommodate 18 coaches have been sanctioned.

#### **Fire accidents in railways**

1562. SHRI RAM KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that loss of human lives in fire accidents in passenger coaches has steeply increased;

(b) if so, the number of human lives lost in fire accidents in Railways during last three years;

(c) whether Audit and Railway officials have conducted any joint survey of railway stations, etc., to ascertain fire prone activities and if so, the details of the findings thereof;

(d) the norms for providing fire extinguishers in sleeper coaches and whether those norms are being followed by Railways; and

(e) the measures taken to check fire accidents by Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) and (b) Fire accidents in trains have shown a reducing trend in the last three years. Details of fire accidents in trains and human lives lost are indicated below:

Year	No. of Fire Accidents on trains	No. of human lives lost in fire accidents	No. of passengers grievously injured
2013-14	7	35	05
2014-15	6	Nil	Nil
2015-16	Nil	Nil	Nil

(c) Audit and Railway officials have not conducted any joint survey of railway stations to ascertain fire prone activities.

(d) and (e) As per norms two portable fire extinguishers have to be provided in Air-Conditioned (AC) sleeper coaches and the same is being followed by Zonal Railways.

Followings steps are being taken on Indian Railways to prevent fire accident in trains:

- Indian Railways have always endeavoured to enhance fire worthiness of coaches by using fire retardant furnishing materials to mitigate effect of fire. Specifications for such furnishing materials have been periodically reviewed to incorporate fire retardant parameters in line with UIC (International Union of Railways) and other international norms.
- Fire extinguishers are being provided in all Air-Conditioned coaches, Second class-cum-guard and luggage vans, pantry cars and train locomotives. Portable fire extinguishers were provided in 100 Non-AC passenger coaches on trial.
- Improved materials for electrical fittings and fixtures such as MCB (Miniature Circuit Breaker), light fittings, terminal boards, connectors etc., are being used progressively.
- Railways are providing 3 tier and 4 tier electrical fuse protection system in train lighting and air-conditioned coaches respectively.
- A pilot project for provision of Comprehensive Fire and Smoke Detection System has been taken up in one rake of New Delhi-Bhubaneswar Rajdhani Express on East Coast Railway. Besides, one LHB (Linke Hofmann Busch) rake in New Delhi-Jammu Tawi Rajdhani train and one AC Double Decker rake running between Kachiguda-Tirupati/Guntur have also been provided with such a system. Based on the feedback from initial trials, Board has sanctioned for extended field trials in 2750 coaches.

- Water mist type fire suppression system is being provided on power cars in a phased manner.
- Detailed instructions have been issued to Zonal Railways for observance of safe practices in handling of pantry cars and for ensuring periodical inspection of electrical and LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) fittings in the pantry cars.
- Intensive publicity campaigns to prevent the travelling public from carrying inflammable goods are regularly undertaken.
- Frequent drives against carrying of inflammable/dangerous articles in trains as well as station premises are undertaken.

#### **HOR quota**

1563. SHRI NEERAJ SHEKHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would post all berths confirmed under HOR quota along with the details of requisitions, against which berths are being confirmed, online, on daily basis for each train in view of alleged rampant corruption and irregularities in release of HOR quota and to ensure transparency; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): (a) In order to meet the urgent travel requirements of High Official Requisition (HOR) holders, which includes Central Government Ministers, Judges of Hon'ble Supreme Court/High Courts of various States, Members of Parliament and other emergent demands, who are on the waiting list, a limited number of berths have been earmarked as Emergency Quota in different trains and in different classes. This accommodation is released by nominated Railway officials in accordance with the priority as per warrant of precedence and well established practice being followed since long. Detailed instructions for streamlining the procedure of releasing accommodation from Emergency Quota are available. Further, surprise checks are conducted by the Commercial branch and by the Vigilance Department to prevent and check irregularities in the allotment of reserved accommodation under this Quota. Since a large number of requisitions are received daily, it is not considered desirable to compile this data and make it available on the website as the voluminous work and manpower involved in this exercise is not likely to give any gainful managerial input commensurate with the work involved.